



The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a long-standing cooperative agreement relationship with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). As a national organization, ASTHO represents public health directors, in all of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States, who formulate and influence sound national health policy and develop and implement state programs and policies to promote health, prevent illness and disability, and improve quality of life. The working relationship between ATSDR and ASTHO provides a mechanism for facilitating communication and the exchange of information about a wide range of environmental health topics including children and exposure to hazardous substances, medical monitoring, and Brownfields.

As part of a cooperative agreement with ATSDR, ASTHO works to meet the information needs of health professionals whose responsibilities include environmental health-related concerns.

Through this agreement, ASTHO is better able to

- identify state health agencies' information needs and determine the most effective means to disseminate that information;

- devise an integrated information system including cyberspace and video conference capabilities to facilitate the exchange of information among state health agencies;
- conduct monthly Health and Environment Electronic Seminars (HEES) to increase state health professionals' knowledge and awareness of environmental health issues; and
- develop an environmental health web page featuring information from ATSDR and providing appropriate links to ATSDR.

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